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Response to Office Action Mailed September 7, 2004
December 7, 2004**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-47 (Cancelled).

- 1 1 (New). A reproduction protection method for operating on main data which
2 are conveyed by a data medium, the method comprising the steps of:
3 detecting medium protection data which are specific to each of predetermined
4 data pieces within said main data and are also conveyed by said data medium;
5 detecting protection position information which specifies a position of said
6 predetermined data pieces within said main data at which to apply reproduction
7 protection, said protection position information also being conveyed by said data
8 medium;
9 assigning a medium protection level in units of video signal frames, based
10 upon said medium protection data;
11 limiting reproduction of said main data based upon at least a film classification
12 system;
13 generating apparatus protection data which comprise at least first apparatus
14 protection data and second apparatus protection data,
15 wherein said first apparatus protection data are specific to a region or country
16 in which said main data are to be reproduced and can not be modified by a recipient

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17 of said reproduced main data, and wherein said second apparatus protection data can
18 be modified by said recipient to selectively define a plurality of protection levels
19 including at least two levels which are respectively specific to adults and to children;
20 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and said
21 apparatus protection data in combination; and
22 executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said protection
23 level,
24 wherein the combination of said medium protection data and said first
25 apparatus protection data determines whether said main data are reproduced in their
26 entirety or not at all, and the combination of said medium protection data and said
27 second apparatus protection data determines whether said main data are reproduced in
28 their entirety, partially, or not at all.

1 2 (New). A data medium for transferring main data to a reproduction apparatus
2 for reproduction by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:
3 said data medium also transfers medium protection data which are respectively
4 specific to each of predetermined data pieces within said main data and are also
5 conveyed by said data medium;
6 said data medium also transfers protection position information which specifies
7 a position of said predetermined data pieces within said main data at which to apply
8 said reproduction protection, said protection position information also being conveyed
9 by said data medium;

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10 said medium protection data assigns a medium protection level in units of
11 video signal frames;

12 the reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which comprise
13 at least first apparatus protection data and second apparatus protection data,

14 wherein said first apparatus protection data are specific to a region or country
15 in which the reproduction apparatus is to be used, and

16 said first apparatus protection data can not be modified by a user of the
17 reproduction apparatus; and

18 said second apparatus protection data can be modified by the user to selectively
19 define a plurality of protection levels including at least two levels which are
20 respectively specific to adults and to children, and

21 said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in combination
22 specify a degree of restriction on said reproduction of the main data by said
23 reproduction apparatus,

24 wherein the combination of said medium protection data and said first
25 apparatus protection data specifies that said main data are reproduced in their entirety
26 or not at all, and the combination of said medium protection data and said second
27 apparatus protection data specifies that said main data are reproduced in their entirety,
28 partially, or not at all.